

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Devoted to the God who Humbles

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

February 1, 2026



Big Idea: Pride dethrones God; but humility makes room for grace.

Daniel 4:17 (NLT) "...so that everyone may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world."

Daniel 4:19-27 (NLT) Belteshazzar replied, 'I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you! ²⁰ The tree you saw was growing very tall and strong, reaching high into the heavens for all the world to see. ²¹ It had fresh green leaves and was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches. ²² That tree, Your Majesty, is you. For you have grown strong and great; your greatness reaches up to heaven, and your rule to the ends of the earth. ²³ "Then you saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, "Cut down the tree and destroy it. But leave the stump and the roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and bronze and surrounded by tender grass. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven. Let him live with the animals of the field for seven periods of time." ²⁴ "This is what the dream means, Your Majesty, and what the Most High has declared will happen to my lord the king. ²⁵ You will be driven from human society, and you will live in the fields with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, ***until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.*** ²⁶ But the stump and roots of the tree were left in the ground. This means that you will receive your kingdom back again when you have learned that heaven rules. ²⁷ "King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper."

- **God is to be first & most.**

Daniel 4:25 (NLT) "...until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses."

- **Pride grows when we receive God's gifts but refuse God's rule.**

- **God humbles the proud.**

Daniel 4:30-32 (NLT) As he looked out across the city, he said, "Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor." ³¹ While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom. ³² You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses."

Romans 1:21,24 (NLT) "Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks... As a result, their minds became dark and confused... So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired."

1 Peter 5:5 (NLT) "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Exercise: Am I a Proud or Broken Person? Nancy Leigh DeMoss

- **God extends grace to the humble.**

Daniel 4:34 (NLT) "After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven..."

Daniel 4:37 (NLT) "All [God's] acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud."

Philippians 2:8 (NLT) "He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

James 4:10 (NLT) "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honour."

Big Idea: Pride dethrones God; but humility makes room for grace.

1) **Humble yourself, before God humbles you.**

2) **Repent of pride in its subtle forms.**

3) **Allow God to reshape your hear**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used today is the NewLiving Translation (NLT)



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Devoted to the God who Humbles
#4 of 7 - February 1, 2026

Context

- 1) Why do you think God gave Nebuchadnezzar such a dramatic and public humbling in Daniel 4? What does this tell us about God's purposes—not just for Nebuchadnezzar, but for future readers like us?
- 2) What might Israel have learned about God while living under foreign rule?

Observation

- 3) What specific words or phrases reveal Nebuchadnezzar's pride in Daniel 4:30? What stands out about how he views himself, his power, and his achievements?
- 4) What repeated phrase appears in Daniel 4:25 and 4:32? Why do you think God repeats this truth so clearly and forcefully?

Meaning

- 5) What does this story teach us about the connection between God's gifts and God's rule? How does the statement "*Pride grows when we receive God's gifts but refuse God's rule*" help interpret this chapter?
- 6) How do Romans 1:21–24 and 1 Peter 5:5 deepen our understanding of what pride does spiritually? According to these passages, what are the consequences of persistent pride?
- 7) How does Philippians 2:8 reframe power and greatness from God's perspective? In what ways does Jesus redefine humility compared to the world's definition?

Application

- 8) Which subtle form of pride do you most recognize in your own life right now—self-sufficiency, control, insecurity, or comparison? How might God be inviting you to repent and re-center under His rule?
- 9) What would it look like this week to "humble yourself before the Lord" in a concrete way (James 4:10)? Is there a specific action, prayer, confession, or surrender God is prompting you toward?



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Am I a Proud or Broken Person?

From *Brokenness, the Heart God Revives* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss
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ATTITUDES TOWARD OTHERS

- _____ 1. Proud people focus on the failure of others and can readily point out those faults.
Broken people are more conscious of their own spiritual need than of anyone else's.
- _____ 2. Proud people have a critical faultfinding spirit. They look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but their own with a telescope.
Broken people are compassionate – they have the kind of love that overlooks a multitude of sins; they can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.
- _____ 3. Proud people are especially prone to criticize those in positions of authority—their pastor, their boss, their husband, their parents—and they talk to others about the faults they see.
Broken people reverence, encourage, and lift up those that God has placed in positions of authority, and they talk to God in intercession, rather than gossiping about the faults they see in others.
- _____ 4. Proud people are self-righteous; they think highly of themselves and look down on others.
Broken people think the best of others; they esteem others as better than themselves.
- _____ 5. Proud people have an independent, self-sufficient spirit.
Broken people have a dependent spirit; they recognize their need for God and for others.

ATTITUDES ABOUT RIGHTS

- _____ 6. Proud people have to prove that they are right—they have to get the last word.
Broken people are willing to yield the right to be right.
- _____ 7. Proud people claim rights and have a demanding spirit.
Broken people yield their rights and have a meek spirit.

- _____ 8. Proud people are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation.
Broken people are self-denying and self-sacrificing.

ATTITUDES ABOUT SERVICE AND MINISTRY

- _____ 9. Proud people desire to be served—they want life to revolve around them and their own needs.
Broken people are motivated to serve others and to be sure others' needs are met before their own.
- _____ 10. Proud people desire to be known as a success.
Broken people are motivated to be faithful and to make others successful.
- _____ 11. Proud people have a feeling—conscious or subconscious—that “this ministry (or this organization) is privileged to have me and my gifts.” They focus on what they can do for God.
Broken people have a heart attitude that says “I don't deserve to have any part in this ministry”; they know that they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives.

ATTITUDES ABOUT RECOGNITION

- _____ 12. Proud people crave self-advancement.
Broken people desire to promote others.
- _____ 13. Proud people have a drive to be recognized and appreciated for their efforts.
Broken people have a sense of their own unworthiness; they are thrilled that God would use them at all.
- _____ 14. Proud people get wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked.
Broken people are eager for others to get the credit, and they rejoice when others are lifted up.
- _____ 15. Proud people are elated by praise and deflated by criticism.
Broken people know that any praise of their accomplishments belongs to the Lord and that criticism can help them grow into spiritual maturity.

ATTITUDES ABOUT THEMSELVES

- ____ 16. Proud people feel confident in how much they know.
Broken people are humbled by how very much they have to learn.
- ____ 17. Proud people are self-conscious; they worry about what others think of them.
Broken people are not preoccupied with what others think of them.
- ____ 18. Proud people are concerned about appearing respectable; they are driven to protect their image and reputation.
Broken people are concerned with being real; they care less about what others think than about what God knows—they are willing to die to their own reputation.
- ____ 19. Proud people can't bear to fail or for anyone to think they are less than perfect. This can drive them to extremes—workaholic tendencies, perfectionism, the tendency to drive others to place unrealistic expectations on themselves/others.
Broken people can recognize and live within God-given limitations.

ATTITUDES ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

- ____ 20. Proud people keep others at arm's length.
Broken people are willing to take the risks of getting close to others and loving intimately.
- ____ 21. Proud people are quick to blame others.
Broken people accept personal responsibility and can acknowledge where they were wrong in a situation.
- ____ 22. Proud people wait for others to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or a breach in a relationship.
Broken people take the initiative to be reconciled--no matter how wrong the other party may have been.
- ____ 23. Proud people are unapproachable or defensive when corrected.
Broken people receive correction with a humble, open spirit.
- ____ 24. Proud people find it difficult to discuss their spiritual needs with others.
Broken people are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs.
- ____ 25. Proud people try to control the people and the circumstances around them—they are prone to manipulate.
Broken people trust in God—they rest in Him and are able to wait for Him to act on their behalf.
- ____ 26. Proud people become bitter and resentful when they are wronged; they have emotional temper tantrums; they hold others hostage and are easily offended; they carry grudges and keep a record of others' wrongs.
Broken people give thanks in all things; they are quick to forgive those who wrong them.

ATTITUDES ABOUT SIN

- ____ 27. Proud people want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned--their instinct is to cover up.
Broken people aren't overly concerned with who knows or who finds out about their sin—they are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.
- ____ 28. Proud people have a hard time saying, "I was wrong, will you please forgive me?"
Broken people are quick to admit their failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.
- ____ 29. Proud people tend to deal in generalities when confessing their sin to God (Dear Lord, please forgive me for all my sins...) or expressing spiritual need to others.
Broken people are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin; "Lord, I agree with You that I love myself more than I love my mate; I confess that I am addicted to television; I'm a glutton; I have a critical spirit; I am an angry mother..."
- ____ 30. Proud people are concerned about the consequences of their sin. They are disturbed over the problems caused by their sin—for example, the financial bondage created by their overspending, or the problems in their marriage that have resulted from selfishness and immoral choices.
Broken people are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin. They are more concerned about how their sin has grieved and dishonored God than about the problems it has created in their lives.
- ____ 31. Proud people are remorseful over their sin—sorry that they got caught or found out.
Broken people are truly repentant over their sin, and the evidence of their repentance is that they forsake the sin.

ATTITUDDES ABOUT THEIR WALK WITH GOD

- _____ 32. Proud people are blind to the true condition of their hearts.
Broken people walk in the light and acknowledge the truth about their lives.
- _____ 33. Proud people compare themselves to others and feel worthy of respect.
Broken people compare themselves with the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy.
- _____ 34. Proud people don't think they need to repent of anything,
Broken people realize that they need to maintain a continual heart attitude of repentance.
- _____ 35. Proud people don't think they need revival, but they are sure everyone else does. (In fact right about now, they are a making mental list of the people they think need top read this list!)
Broken people continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit.

Identifying the areas of pride in your life is the first step in dealing with it. It is this pride that God is addressing in your life though this "breaking" process. God may be in the process of exposing your pride. He may be using your current circumstances and difficult relationships to break you of your hold on these areas to produce greater humility in your life. Don't get discouraged – God is at work to remove those things in your life so you can experience greater intimacy with Him and put Him on display in the midst of the difficult realities of life. Don't justify, rationalize or excuse these attitudes in your life. Confess to God each area you have checked. Thank Him for the work of His Spirit in your life to expose these areas and praise him for His grace that covers your sin. *"Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."* (James 4:10) As Nancy Leigh DeMoss concludes, "The infinite riches and blessings of the kingdom of God belong to those who recognize their spiritual poverty."